



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way · Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
www.dnr.illinois.gov

JB Pritzker, Governor
Colleen Callahan, Director

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CONTACT: Ed Cross

OFFICE: (217) 557-1240

CELL: (217) 685-7027

edward.cross@illinois.gov

Illinois Conservation Police Officer Steven Beltran Named Officer of the Year



SPRINGFIELD, IL – The Illinois Department of Natural Resources and IDNR Conservation Police have recognized officers for outstanding efforts protecting the public during the past year, including the presentation of Conservation Police Officer (CPO) Steven Beltran as Illinois Conservation Police Officer of the Year.

CPO Beltran, a resident of Leaf River, is a 19-year veteran of the IDNR Conservation Police and is based in northwest Illinois.

“Illinois Conservation Police Officers like Steven Beltran represent the best of the best in law enforcement in the State of Illinois,” said IDNR Director Colleen Callahan. “Our CPOs work hard

every day to help keep Illinois residents and visitors to our state safe, be it in our state parks, on our waterways, or wherever they're needed in counties and communities urban and rural.”

Nominators cited CPO Beltran for being an efficient, effective officer in all facets of work for the IDNR. They noted his skills in the digital age have assisted in his investigative work and benefited his fellow officers. CPO Beltran also serves on multiple committees and is well-known for his work with community organizations and in promoting outdoors safety through the media.

Illinois Conservation Police Officer of the Year award winners are selected based on a variety of factors, including job knowledge, skills and judgment; dedication and professionalism in investigation and follow-through on cases; and, cooperation with other officers, agencies and constituency groups.

Other Officer of the Year nominees were CPO Matt Viverito, Clinton; CPO Chase Sanford, Chicago Ridge; CPO George Johnson, Marion; and, Sergeant William Gilmer, Mason City.

IDNR Conservation Police also presented a number of other awards to officers and IDNR staff for outstanding performance in 2018:

The Medal of Valor, awarded to officers who perform an act of exceptional bravery, was presented to CPO Marc Folden, McLeansboro, for heroic efforts in rescuing a stranded family from a submerged vehicle in flood waters on February 24, 2018.

The Award of Merit, for achievements in performing their duties with outstanding skill, diligence, productivity, judgment, and responsibility, was presented to Sergeant Anthony Petreikis, Illinois City, and CPO Bradley Thompson, Canton.

The Certificate of Merit, awarded to officers who maintain consistently high standards of performance of their assigned duties over an extended period of time, was presented to CPO Brian Alt, Roscoe; CPO Jarrod Elliott, Blandinsville; CPO John Farber, St. Anne; CPO Audrey Hoftender, Elizabeth; and, CPO Nicholas Honiotes, Joliet.

A Certificate of Appreciation, awarded to an individual who exhibits outstanding performance to assist the IDNR Office of Law Enforcement, was presented to Kent Boyles, Wildlife Biologist for the IDNR, nominated in recognition of his hard work and invaluable assistance to District 13 Illinois Conservation Police Officers in central Illinois.

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